

## Washington fashionable Society in Dismay

### Embarrassing Position of Social Leaders Who Ignored Mrs. Galt, the "Tradesman's Widow", and Now Must Bow to Her as Their Social Superior



Mrs. Galt's Modest Dwelling at No. 1308 Twentieth Street, Washington.

NOTHING since the news that Fort Sumter had been fired on has attracted so much attention in Washington society as the romance of the President and Mrs. Galt. Everywhere it is the absorbing topic of conversation, but what is said depends upon who is doing the talking.

If you will turn the pages of the Social Register of Washington you will search in vain for the name of Mrs. Norman Galt, and yet in the next edition of the Social Register this same woman will be recognized as the leader of Washington society!

Those who have looked superciliously over their forebears in years past and said: "Mrs. Galt? Er, a tradesman's widow, isn't she? We do not know her," are in an embarrassing situation. Washington society had no interest in Mrs. Galt. To certain social elements it is an unpardonable crime to be engaged in retail trade. Mr. Galt, the jeweler, was not entitled to social position. His widow could not obtain social recognition, especially since it could not be denied that she still retained an interest in the jewelry shop.

But the magic touch of the occupant of the White House has instantly changed all this. The question is, Will the new mistress of the White House take means to punish the social leaders who ignored her by the distribution of painful snubs? That is what Washington is waiting to see.

Undoubtedly Mrs. Galt, as "first lady in the land," will be in a position to obtain an ample revenge if she wants it. For the mistress of the White House leads Washington society. Her decision merely to withhold invitations from this woman or that, where luncheons and other exclusive entertainments are concerned, would be a deadly blow to the social prestige of the individuals affected.

Nobody except Mrs. Galt knows what is going to happen. But, in order that the whole situation may be understood, it is necessary to explain, or at least to give an outline of, the rather peculiar social conditions that govern at the capital.

There is, to begin with, the fairly extensive and numerous coterie known as "official" society. It includes Members of Congress (and their womenfolk), members of the Cabinet, and all other persons in high employment under the Government.

#### Who's Who in Washington Society.

There is the Army and Navy set, the make-up of which needs no explanation. There is the "old Washington set"—sometimes called the "cave dwellers"—representing old families long resident in Washington.

Finally, there is the "fashionable crowd," composed wholly of rich (mainly new-rich) people and the hangers-on of the rich—plus the diplomats, who are beloved by the rich because a certain social prestige envelops them, and who seek the rich for the sake of being gorgeously entertained and otherwise amused.

The boundaries between set and set are not absolutely and definitely fixed; they merge into one another to some extent. Thus there are some members of Congress, a few, who belong to the fashionable crowd. But this is because they have wealth and are willing to entertain; the circumstance that they are in Congress (even though Senators) does not help them materially in a social way. Many is the Congressman's wife who comes to Washington with the confident expectation of being a "high-flyer of fashion" at the capital, only to suffer bitter disappointment.

The fashionable crowd is very new (as at present constituted, and leaving the diplomats out of question), but none the less exclusive on that account. It has been built up mainly by millionaires and multi-millionaire people who, having discovered the delights of Washington as a place of winter residence, have come here during the last twenty-five years. Most of them were nobodies, socially or otherwise, a generation back.

It will now be understood what the conditions were as found by Mrs. Galt when she first came to Washington as the newly married wife of Norman Galt, who at that time was the city's foremost jewelry merchant, owning (with his brother) the same shop on Pennsylvania avenue that is occupied to-day by the business.

Mr. Galt was not much older than his

wife. He came of an excellent Virginia family. His father (who started the business in Washington) had married a Virginia lady of good family, his cousin. This elder Mrs. Galt, on coming to Washington, made the unpleasant discovery that, notwithstanding the undeniably good birth of herself and her husband, she could not hope to be "received" in society because the latter had a cast-iron rule excluding persons engaged in retail trade. Like a sensible woman, she made no attempt to combat the restriction, and contented herself with the company of the friends, not a few, whom she liked and who liked her.

The situation repeated itself rather curiously in the next generation. The elder Mrs. Galt's son, Norman (succeeding with the brother to the jewelry business) married a young lady of old Virginia family, Miss Edith Bolling—the same lady whose engagement to President Wilson has started Washington society. He brought her to Washington; she found herself confronted with exactly the same problem that her husband's mother had encountered, and she solved it in the same way. She made no attempt to "go out" in society, but was satisfied with the companionship of her own little coterie of Southern women of good birth who recognized her as one of themselves, shop or no shop.

#### Tradesman's Wife Not Wanted.

Please take note of how the matter exactly stood. Mrs. Norman Galt—destined, if she had but known it, to the station of first lady of the land—found herself, as the jeweler's wife, ineligible to the official set, because her husband held no official position. She had nothing to do with the Army or Navy, for a like reason. She was impossible from the viewpoint of the fashionable crowd because she had not money enough. Besides, she was "in trade," which, particularly in the eyes of the old Washington set, placed her in the undesirable middle class, with whom "one does not exchange visits."

In a word, Mrs. Norman Galt was "out of it" entirely and hopelessly. Her position was especially peculiar because, if she had come to Washington unmarried, as Edith Bolling, descendant of one of the very best families of the Old Dominion and related by cousinship to all the really truly F. F. V's., she would have been received as a matter of course and with open arms by the most exclusive and conservative "cave-dwellers." As a tradesman's wife, however, she was unacceptable.

Virginia people, to-day as in former times, are aristocratic and exclusive. But, since the civil war, and owing to the loss of wealth thereby caused, most of them have been obliged to work for a living. In that State it is not accounted infra-dig. to keep a shop. Indeed, many scions of the best and oldest families are employed in the stores of cities and towns as clerks, and none the less is thought of them on that account from a social point of view.

In Washington it is different. Here retail trade is not tolerated socially, if it represents a means of livelihood for the present and immediate generation. For a past generation, even though it be the one directly preceding, it is politely ignored. Thus, for example, the Leiters are among the leaders of fashion at the capital, notwithstanding the fact that "Joe" Leiter's father, Levi Z., made his fortune as a retail shopkeeper in Chicago.

It has been said that Mrs. Galt comes of an old Virginia family; but this does not fully express the fact in her case. She is a lineal descendant of the oldest of all American families, being the daughter of the princess Pocahontas, whose father was Powhatan, ruler of all the tribes of Virginia at the time when the first white people arrived in that part of the country.

Powhatan in those days was military and civil governor of what is now the District of Columbia. But his lineal descendant, Edith Bolling Galt, has not found herself acceptable to the persons of more or less dubious immediate ancestry who largely compose the fashionable society of Washington at the present time.

If proof of this fact be wanted, look at the Social Register of Washington. Her name will not be found in it, as already mentioned. Not only is Mrs. Galt not of Washington's 400; she has not been rated even among the more distinguished 4,000!—this being approximately the number of names included in the Social Register.

But now it is going to be different. If Mrs. Galt feels that in the past she has



Children of the Bolling Family and Edith Bolling Galt at 4 Years of Age in Centre.

been snubbed and "left out," she will, as mistress of the White House, have plenty of opportunity to return the snubs with interest, and to inflict heart-burnings upon those who have behaved disagreeably toward her. It will be for her to wave the wand of social authority, and to say Who is Who.

The chances are, however, that she will do nothing of the kind. Those who enjoy the privilege of her intimacy declare that she is the most amiable and charming of women, and the likelihood seems to be that she will let bygones be bygones, treat everybody as nicely as she can, and set at naught all fears of her adopting measures of social retaliation.

But it will be an amusing situation.

The most snobbishly exclusive women will forget their horror of a "tradesman's widow" and will cultivate the favors of the new mistress of the White House. As Mrs. Woodrow Wilson looks into their eyes and listens to their pretty compliments nobody will be better aware than she of their insincerity.



Mrs. Galt's Jewelry Shop on Pennsylvania Avenue.



Photograph of Mrs. Norman Galt Taken During Her Recent Wedding Shopping Visit in New York.

## Science Shows How to Make the Most of Your Brains

NO matter how good a brain one has he will not be a good student unless he learns early in life how to use his mental powers to the best advantage. The reason why boys and girls of mediocre ability outstrip naturally brilliant children in school and in afterlife is because the former have learned how to use their brains, while the latter have not.

Knowing how to acquire knowledge with the least time and effort is as important as knowledge itself. Too many children and grown persons as well make the mistake of thinking that they can learn by bulldoze strength and tenacity alone. Educators are just awaking to the fact that there are right and wrong ways of studying and that it is of the utmost importance for everybody to know the right way.

Dr. George Van Ness Dearborn has recently made some very interesting discoveries about efficiency or, as he calls it, economy in study. What he has found out is of great value not only to those who are still in school or college, but also to those who have passed that stage,

for the acquisition of knowledge should never cease until we are dead.

Real interest in what he wishes to study is, Dr. Dearborn finds, the first step in the making of a good student. Once this interest is really acquired you learn almost reflexly and without any great effort, because it is a pleasure to you.

Whatever you have an interest in you enjoy doing, and that is the reason why well-adapted work in the long run is the most certain, if not the greatest, of human delights. Many people think of work as a necessary something disagreeable rather than agreeable, but it is certainly one of life's most permanent and substantial satisfactions and delights. All great, useful and original work ordinarily is done under conditions such that the work is enjoyable, there being always enough interest about it to make it pleasurable. It is under these conditions, furthermore and generally under these alone, that the largest amount of energy is expended.

There are two efficient ways of acquiring knowledge—the conscious and subconscious. Conscious, or deliberate study, is what school children call "grind-

ing," and is essentially a restraining process. When we study consciously we must hold back fatigue, the impulse to distraction, the stimulus of the senses, the longing for change, and keep everlastingly at the task of forcing our brains along new pathways.

The conscious student must avoid "false study" in which the eyes are open while the brain is shut and, except in a few instances, he must avoid learning by rote.

Attention should not be concentrated on a book for too long a time without rest. Every twenty minutes or so the student should walk around the room for a minute or two. This activity will draw some of the blood of your brain into your legs and will relieve the strain on your eyes.

The other method of acquiring knowledge—the subconscious—consists in subconscious observation on one's subconscious mind. It is by this method that most of the endless details of knowledge are supplied, and without it we could not understand anything worth learning.

A good example of this kind of study is a young child learning to speak. He does not at first consciously strive to pick up

the marvelous art of speech, but none the less he acquires it quickly, in part by imitation.

There are three different ways of learning by this subconscious method—by seeing things, by hearing things and by actively doing things.

For the student who uses the conscious and subconscious methods of study intelligently examinations cease to be a bugbear. They simply take care of themselves.

"Examinations," says Dr. Dearborn, "are not intended to trap you, but are intended as means to find out how much you know or do not know; mostly, in fact, how much you do not know. Cramping for an examination is like carrying weights in your pockets when getting weighed; you are cheating yourself. The economical way is to keep your notes posted up in your books and in your brains every day so they can associate, and you learn much faster, giving your subconscious faculties a better chance. The power of grasping ideas is an extremely valuable one. Pick out the gist and sense of a running discourse, select the ideas and express them in your own words."